

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 130222

O R 120535Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2144

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0658

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, PK, EG

SUBJECT: SUBCONTINENT SETTLEMENT-CAIRO MEETING

REF: A. DACCA 3873, 8/28/73; B. DACCA 620; C. ISLAMABAD 1469;
D. STATE 27831

1. ISLAMABAD'S 1469 RECONFIRMS THE IMPRESSION I HAVE REPORTED THAT BDG AND GOP ARE CLOSE TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE LINKED PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION AND WAR CRIMINALS. AS THE DEPARTMENT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE WISDOM OF AN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, I RECOMMEND IT REVIEW THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED LAST AUGUST (DACCA 3873) AGAINST OUR TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE BDG AT THE PENULTIMATE STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN LARGE PART THESE ARGUMENTS ARE AS VALID TODAY AS THEY WERE LAST SUMMER.

2. IN REPORTING FOREIGN SECRETARY ENAYET KARIM'S REMINDER THAT HIS MINISTER HAD REQUESTED THE USG INTERVENE WITH BYUTTO (DACCA 620), I WEIGHED THE ADVISABILITY OF REITERATING WITH MY SUPPORT THE BDG APPEAL. I DECIDED AGAINST SUCH A RECOMMENDATION AS I ASSUMED WE COULD TELL THE GOP NOTHING IT DID NOT ALREADY KNOW THROUGH INDIAN, INDONESIAN AND ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT INTERMEDIARIES AND THAT WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE MUJIB WOULD KEEP HIS SIDE OF THE
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BARGAIN- CANCEL WAR CRIMES TRIALS- IN A MANNER THE GOP WOULD

FIND SATISFACTORY. I SUBMIT THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHI'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADORS BYROADE AND ELIOT ALSO PROVIDES US NO GUARANTEE THE PAKS WOULD KEEP THEIR BARGAIN IN A WAY THE BENGALLEES WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE.

3. THERE IS BASICALLY NOTHING NEW IN SHAHI'S STATEMENT THAT RECOGNITION WILL FOLLOW CLEAR ASSURANCE THE BDG IS PREPARED TO RENOUNCE WAR CRIMES TRIALS. THIS HAS BEEN THE STRONG IMPLICATION OF PAK PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND MUST HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED BY THE SEVERAL INTERESTED INTERMEDIARIES. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE PAKS HAVE ALREADY MADE CLEAR THEY DO NOT EVEN EXPECT A PRIOR RELEASE OF THE 195. SURELY KAMAL HOSSAIN HAS RECEIVED THESE MESSAGES AGAIN FROM CAIRO. WITH SO MANY OTHER HELPFUL HANDS IN THE GAME, I CAN SEE NO ADVANTAGE ACCRUING TO THE US IF WE ATTEMPT AT THIS LATE STAGE TO NEGOTIATE THE SPECIFICS OF WHEN AND HOW THE TWO PARTIES WILL MAKE CLEAR COMMITMENTS. ANYTHING LESS THAN SPECIFICS WOULD CONTRIBUTE LITTLE TO RESOLUTION.

4. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT CONCLUDE WE NEED TO TAKE ON THIS POTENTIALLY AWKWARD MISSION, I AM READY TO PURSUE IT WITH THE BDG. MY INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE SO FRAMED THAT WE CAN APPEAR TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KAMAL HOSSAIN'S APPEAL. UNLESS SOME NEW ELEMENT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE EQUATION, I DOUBT THAT WE CAN PRUDENTLY GO BEYOND TELLING BENGALLEES THAT WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM TALKS WITH THE GOP THAT THE PRESENT DEADLOCK WILL BE BROKEN IF HIS GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ADEQUATE ASSURANCE TRIALS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, RECOGNITION, POLITICAL STABILITY, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA00658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P740145-2272
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740237/aaaabivu.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 DACCA 3873, 74 DACCA 620, 74 ISLAMABAD 1469, 74 STATE 27831
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBCONTINENT SETTLEMENT-CAIRO MEETINGS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005